

Osmani, John

Alto

Aug. Dec 1904

October 20th, 1914

Professor J. G. Adams,  
McGill University,  
Montreal.

My dear Professor Adams:

I shall be very glad to take my share in preparing material such as you suggest bearing on some aspect of Great Britain's attitude and relationship to the war. I assume that no difficulty would be put in the way of work by such an organisation by the British authorities. The matter provided should be carefully scrutinised by an Editorial Board because we do not want to fall into the sorry plight of the German propagandists in the United States. You may rely on me for any help I may be able to give you.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

December 3rd, 1914

Professor J. C. Adams, M.D., F.R.S.,  
McGill University,  
Montreal.

Dear Professor Adams:

On my return from the West I find your letter awaiting me in which you say that American opinion as well as our own Canadian opinion is on the side of doing nothing like organised writing for the presentation of our view to the American public. I agree entirely with your final decision.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

J. G. ADAMI, M.D., F.R.S.  
PROFESSOR.

DEPARTMENT OF  
PATHOLOGY AND BACTERIOLOGY  
MCGILL UNIVERSITY,  
MONTREAL.

49  
October 23, 1914.

R. A. Falconer, Esq., LL.D.,  
President's Office,  
University of Toronto.

Dear Mr. President,

In case we can make suitable arrangements with one of the news syndicates of the United States, would you be willing to form one of a small but authoritative body of a dozen or so University men which would supply the syndicate each week with an article of 500 to 1000 words, bearing upon some aspect of Great Britain's attitude in relationship to the war? This would require from you a contribution every two or three months. It will be known to you that the Germans have an active organisation which attempts to influence the people of the United States against Great Britain, and against any possible coöperation between the States and Britain in this war. Nothing has been done by this country to counteract the work of that organisation, and from what we gather from Sir R. L. Borden, the Government would be glad to see the development of some body here, which would attempt to influence popular opinion in the United States.

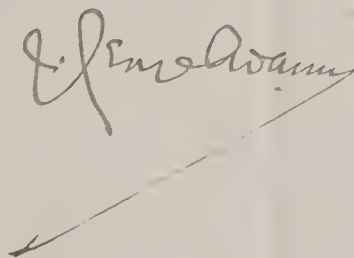
I write this tentatively to obtain your views, recognizing that it may take some little time before we are able to make the necessary arrangements for the distribution of our matter. In making those arrangements it would strengthen our hands could we announce that you would be one of the members of this body, and a periodical contributor to the series of articles. I imagine that it is impossible to make any bargain with the American papers to pay for the articles: we would have to contribute it free.



- 2 -

I am writing this letter to the enclosed list.  
If you are in favor of the scheme, and know any other strong  
names to suggest to add to those mentioned, will you kindly  
let me know.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. F. Adams", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the left below the name.

LIST OF THOSE TO WHOM THE ACCOMPANYING  
LETTER HAS BEEN SENT.

---

Prof. J. G. Adami

Prof. C. W. Colby

Prof. Pelham Edgar

President R. A. Falconer

Prof. C. E. Fryer

Principal D. M. Gordon

Principal M. Hutton

Prof. J. W. A. Hickson

Prof. S. Leacock

Prof. A. Macphail

Prof. J. Mavor

Prof. J. L. Todd

Prof. G. M. Wrong

48

October 27th, 1914

Professor J. G. Adams,

McGill University.

Dear Professor Adams:

Since writing to you yesterday one or two of the gentlemen to whom you had sent the letter that you also sent to me have been speaking about the project. Those who have mentioned it to me are of opinion that it would be unwise for Canadians to undertake any such campaign. They have turned their eyes to the conditions into which the German propagandists brought themselves. I also understand from Sir Harry Johnston that the Foreign Office is exercising restraint over those who desire to speak for Britain in the United States. Apparently the officials are of opinion that wise restraint in the long run will be of the greatest advantage. Something of this was in my mind when in my letter yesterday when I said that whatever was sent in should be under the supervision of a well selected committee. With kind regards,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

*I dictated this letter to you yesterday, Thursday, and thought it had been sent off. It precedes my letter dictated today. J.G.A.*

J. G. ADAMI, M.D., F.R.S.  
PROFESSOR.

DEPARTMENT OF  
PATHOLOGY AND BACTERIOLOGY  
MCGILL UNIVERSITY,  
MONTREAL.

October 27, 1914.

R. A. Falconer, Esq., LL.D.,

President, University of Toronto.

Dear Mr. President,

Best of thanks for your letter received this morning. You will understand that my previous letter was tentative, and that no steps can be taken until we can determine some point of entry into the periodical press of the United States. Both Leacock and Colby, who are in touch with United States journalism, are at present making cautious enquiries. But if it is found that we can place material quietly and anonymously, then we will go ahead.

It is suggested that we would be of more service if we follow the daily press in the United States and prepare refutations, and that such articles in refutation would be more acceptable to the Statesian press than any series of academic articles on the war in general. What think you?

I wholly agree with you that no one man should be given the decision regarding the offering of, or publication of any article. We must guard to the utmost against the bungling diplomacy of the German publicity campaign if we are to produce any effect. We shall take no definite action until it is agreed to in the course of a week or two, by all those names I gave you. To that list there should be added the names of Principal Peterson, left out by inadvertence, Dean Cappon, and Professors Morrison and Grant of Kingston.

I am delighted to see that you are taking such strong initiative at Toronto.

Yours cordially,

*J. G. Adami*



J. G. ADAMI, M.D., F.R.S.  
PROFESSOR.

DEPARTMENT OF  
PATHOLOGY AND BACTERIOLOGY  
MCGILL UNIVERSITY,  
MONTREAL.

45  
October 27, 1914.

R. A. Falconer, Esq., LL.D.,  
President's Office,  
University of Toronto.

My dear Mr. President,

I think I had better answer your letter of this morning by sending you a copy of the letter I had just dictated to be sent to Pelham Edgar before I opened and read yours. I very firmly believe in extreme caution in this matter; the letter, however, will give my standpoint.

Yours sincerely,

J. G. Adami

J. J. G. ADAMI, M.D., F.R.S.  
PROFESSOR.

COPY.  
DEPARTMENT OF  
PATHOLOGY AND BACTERIOLOGY  
MCGILL UNIVERSITY,  
MONTREAL.

46  
October 27, 1914.

Prof. Pelham Edgar,  
Toronto, Ont.

My dear Mr. Pelham Edgar,

Many thanks for your valuable letter.

I may say that a week ago I would have written the same, and I still think it wise to weigh the matter. One of my colleagues received a letter from an old Canadian who is now a professor at Pittsburgh; he volunteered the information that he observed a distinct change of tone in the professoriate there. At first without exception they were all enthusiastically with the Allies, but now nearly every one of them is receiving each week marked copies of the Tageblatt, Hamburger Nachrichten, Frankfurter Zeitung, &c., with quasi philosophical articles in them bearing upon the German case, and as he said <sup>it</sup> was distinctly telling upon their men. Now if this be true - and the writer is a keen observer - the only way to counteract it is to provide the intelligent reading public in the States with sound matter on our side. I may say that Colby who knows the United States intimately, is of much the same opinion as you are.

I have been asked by several of our men here, after an informal discussion, if I would take up this matter; hence my letter to the select list of University men. This you may be sure of, that nothing will be done save with great care, and then only if we find that the pro-British in the United States can afford us the means of easy publication, that is to say, we will not force this matter upon the American public, but are ready to supply their demand if it exists.

Yours sincerely,